

*Buenos días. Yo soy la Secretaria del Estado de Connecticut,
Susan Bysiewicz, y quiero que sepas que ¡Tu voto si cuenta!*



I'm Susan Bysiewicz and I want you to know that your vote **DOES** count!

In my 10 years as Secretary of the State, I have said that to all Connecticut voters. And now, in 2008, I am enthusiastically saying it in ESPAÑOL to Latinos in Connecticut – the largest and fastest growing ethnic community in our state.

Just to give you an idea, our office estimates that nearly 400,000 Latinos now live in Connecticut; and 225,000 of them are eligible to vote.

While voter participation rates in places like Puerto Rico can sometimes climb higher than 80%, here in Connecticut less than half of our eligible Latino voters are registered. So we have some work to do.

That's why we are launching our 2008 ¡Tu voto si cuenta! Campaign to register 10,000 new Latino voters by our deadline for this fall's election, which is October 28th.

This is a non-partisan voter outreach effort. It is a bold, new initiative with teams of volunteers on the ground across ten cities in our state that have significant Latino populations.

In addition to encouraging our Latino citizens to vote, on this web page you will find links to important voter education information such as what form of identification you need to register and vote, how to restore your voting rights if you are an ex-offender, Spanish language materials including voter registration cards, and

information on how to fill out a paper ballot and use the new optical scanner voting machines.

This will also be a major get-out-the-vote drive to increase Latino electoral participation in November 2008 and beyond.

We will accomplish this through a state and local media campaign and the important work of hundreds of volunteers in ten local Latino Voting Campaign committees.

We have campaign committees in the following cities: Bridgeport,



Danbury,
Hartford,
Meriden, New
Britain, New
Haven, New
London,
Wallingford,
Waterbury, and

Willimantic. On this web page you'll be able to find the contact information for each of these local campaign committees. Contact them if you want to join as a volunteer, donate supplies or money,

or simply learn more about registering to vote and voting on Election Day.

I am particularly proud to have the Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission as our partner in this voter outreach effort and have been working closely with Mr. Fernando Betancourt, Executive Director of the Commission, and his staff in this joint initiative. On this web page you can find the link to the LPRAC for more information on the important work of this Commission.

I am also fortunate to have a group of over 50 Latino leaders from throughout the state serving in the Latino Voting Campaign Steering Committee that met consistently and provided vision and leadership to this effort. I want to thank everyone on the Steering Committee for their leadership and participation.

¡Tu voto si cuenta! has the support of the following national Latino organizations: the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, the Hispanic Federation, Democracia, and the NALEO Education Fund. On this web page you will find links to these important organizations.



Don't stay on the
sidelines. Join ¡Tu voto si cuenta! and to become a participant in
this historic Presidential Election on November 4, 2008!